

THE WORLD NEEDS MY WATER: I have the Living Water in me. Infinite refreshment is mine in Christ, and I unlock it in me when I give it to others. I eagerly risk embarrassment to offer others the Living Water of Jesus.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE I FIND IT HARD TO BE NICE TO: PEOPLE WHO ALREADY OWE ME SOMETHING, AND PEOPLE WHO ARE UNLIKELY TO EVER PAY ME BACK. // CHICAGO STORIES 9-11

THE REFRESHMENT PRINCIPLE:

I am most refreshed when God moves through me to refresh others.
MY REFRESHMENT COMES FROM GOD WHEN I POUR MYSELF INTO OTHERS.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect...”

Matthew 5:43-48

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

James 2:8-9

THE ANSWER TO THIS DILEMMA IS BURIED IN A TINY LETTER PAUL WROTE TO PHILEMON.

Philemon (p. 828)

WHO IS PHILEMON?

WHAT'S THE SITUATION?

BIG PICTURE

THE BIBLE ADVOCATES SLAVERY

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord...

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Colossians 3:22; 4:1

Paul wants Philemon to **free** his **slave**.

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO US? WE HAVE FAVOR SLAVERY // ILL: DWIGHT AND ANDY

KEY POINTS

- Onesimus is my **son**.
- Onesimus is **useful**.
- Onesimus is my **heart** (guts).
- Onesimus could take your **place** with me.
- Perhaps... no longer a slave, but **better**.
- Onesimus is a **man** and your **brother**.
FINISH THROUGH 17 // SUMMARIZE PAUL'S ARGUMENT

OUR QUESTION

How do you give to someone who has already taken so much?

READ THE REST

SOLUTION

- “Chalk his **debt** to my account.”
- “You owe me your **life**.”

ILL: BRING UP TWO PEOPLE // IF HE OWES ANYTHING, I'LL PAY IT, HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED THAT IS A PICTURE OF JESUS

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

*Because of all Jesus has done for me, I have an unlimited **freedom** to **serve** others.*

The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Matthew 25:40

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all...

2 Corinthians 5:14